

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Amended) A method of sending an electronic communication from a first terminal to a second terminal via one or more hosts, comprising:

sending a query for [an] a first address for a first host to a first domain name server[, the first domain name server having a domain name];

B sending a query for [the] a second address for the first host to a second domain name server when the first domain name server does not resolve the first address, wherein the second [domain name server having a domain name including an extension, wherein the extension includes the domain name of the first domain name server] address for the first host at the second domain name server is a hierarchical extension of the first address; and

resolving the second address at the [secondary] second domain server.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the query first the first address includes sending a query for an IP address for the first host.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the host is an instant messaging host.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the host is a presence and availability management host.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the query for [an] the first address for the first host includes sending a query from a second host.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising sending the second address of the first host from the second domain name server to the second host.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

*A3
only* sending a query for [an] a first address for the second host to the first domain name server;

sending a query for [the] a second address for the second host to the second domain name server when the first domain name server does not resolve the first address for the second host,
• wherein the second address for the second host is a hierarchical extension of the first address of the second host; and

resolving the second address of the second host at the [secondary] second domain server.
